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SWADLINCOTE DISTRICT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

YEAR 1941

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

S. T. Cochrane, M.D. D.P.H.

INCORPORATING THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

John Mullin, M.S.I.A.

To the Chairman and Members of the Swadlincote
District Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my report for the year ending 31st December, 1941. On the instructions of the Ministry of Health the report is again curtailed and details of population etc., have been omitted.

It will be noted that the death rate of 10.6. is lower than the rate for 1940 and is below the rate for England and Wales and that the Infantile Mortality Rate is reduced to 54.49. The increase in the Birth Rate was not maintained although still slightly above the rate for England and Wales.

The general health of the district remains good and there were no serious epidemics of Infectious Disease.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

S. T. Cochrane,

Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1942.

Area of District in Acres (inclusive of water)	3,754.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1941)	5,533.
Rateable Value.	£84,404.
Sum represented by a penny rate.	£324.279.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	1941	1940.
Live birth rate.	14.7	16.03.
Live birth rate (England and Wales) per 1,000 civilian population.	14.2.	14.6.

DEATH RATES (per 1,000 estimated population)

	1941	1940.
Death Rate.	10.6.	11.79
Death Rate (England and Wales)	12.9.	14.3.
Death Rate of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births.	54.49	91.18
Death rate Diarrhoeal Diseases (children under 2 years)	0.5.	0.20
Pthisis Death Rate.	0.19.	0.15.
Respiratory Diseases Death Rate.	1.21.	1.83.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following cases of infectious disease were notified during the year :-

Scarlet Fever	43.	Whooping Cough	24.	Diphtheria	5.
Erysipelas	7.	Measles	270.	Pneumonia	55.
Puerperal Pyrexia.	3.	Cerebro Spinal Fever	7.		

A minor epidemic of Measles occurred in the early part of the year, fortunately the cases were of a mild type, and there were only two deaths.

Seventeen Scarlet Fever, two Diphtheria, and three Cerebro Spinal Fever cases were removed to Isolation Hospital.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The campaign against diphtheria which was commenced late in 1940 continued throughout the year and much work was involved.

The children are immunised free; the immunising medium being Alum Precipitated Toxoid supplied by the Ministry of Health. Parents are offered the choice of having the children dealt with by their family Doctor at the Council's expense or by me at one of the centres set up for the purpose,

Two injections are given with an interval of four weeks between. The majority of the children were immunised either by myself or by the School Medical Officers and I have to record my appreciation of the valuable assistance given by the County Medical Officer of Health's Department.

Every opportunity was taken to publicise the scheme by means of posters, film shows, leaflets and also propaganda work by the Health Visitors and School Teachers, whose assistance was invaluable.

The total number of children immunised at December 31st 1941 was :-

Children under five years	354.
Children over five years	<u>1712.</u>
Total	<u><u>2066.</u></u>

In view of the comparatively small number of consents to immunisation being received for children under five years, a special effort was made to persuade mothers to have the younger children treated, towards the end of the year this was beginning to show results.

A stock of Diphtheria Anti-toxin is kept at the Health Department, this is available free to medical practitioners for cases of diphtheria in the district.

To the Chairman and Members of the Swadlincote
District Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to report to you on my work for
the year 1941. The year was a very busy one largely owing to the
many additional war-time duties which were placed upon me; the
sanitary services were however satisfactorily maintained.

I desire to express my thanks to the members of the
Committees associated with my work for their support throughout
the year.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN MULLIN,

Sanitary Inspector.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS.Number of inspections and reinspections.HOUSING.

Public Health and Housing Acts.	525.
Applications for Council Houses	24.
Overcrowding.	128.

GENERAL.

Bakehouses	19.
Butchers Shops	67.
Cowsheds	41.
Dairies	79.
Disinfection	65.
Drainage	212.
Evacuation	371.
Factories	20.
Food Premises	89.
Infectious Disease	118.
Rats & Mice (Destruction) Act	18.
Shops Acts	61.
Schools	48.
Slaughterhouses	127.
Vermin.	15.
Water Supplies	2.
Miscellaneous (not recorded above)	523.

Total	<u>2,561.</u>
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HOUSING.

Owing to the suspension of work under the Housing Act, the housing shortage became more acute during the year. There was an increase in the number of applications for Council houses and there are approximately 500 families on the waiting list.

It was difficult to recommend tenants for such houses as became vacant and many deserving cases had to be left for future vacancies.

There was also a certain amount of difficulty in getting housing repairs carried out owing to the shortage of labour.

FOOD INSPECTION.MEAT.

All butchers meat continues to be slaughtered at the controlled slaughter-house at Burton, but 154 pigs killed under permit from the Food Executive Officer were inspected.

The following were surrendered as unfit for food :-

Three pig carcasses and offals	total weight	330 lbs.
Pork offal	" "	110 lbs.

FOOD CONDEMNED IN SHOPS ETC.

Sausage meat	79 lbs.
Potatoes	6 cwt.
Eggs	700
Bacon	77 lbs.
Jam	11 lbs.
Assorted Canned foods.	101 tins.

FOOD MANUFACTURING PREMISES.

These premises are now subject to registration and all were inspected. There was an improvement in the methods of handling foods.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Clean milk production continued to receive attention, more regard being paid to hygienic methods than to effecting structural improvements.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

I made visits to all the cases notified, advising on isolation or arranging for removal to hospital and carrying out disinfection where necessary.

EVACUATION.

I continued to look after the Evacuation Hostel, also the communal billets for mothers and children which were equipped during 1940.

FOOD DECONTAMINATION SERVICE.

The responsibility for organising this service was placed upon the Council by the Ministry of Food and as your Food Decontamination Officer I recruited and trained the squads, arranged suitable sites for treating foods and generally equipped the service.

Practices were held at intervals throughout the year and the squads showed keen enthusiasm for their work.

GENERAL.

Duties undertaken during 1941 included the equipping of the Alexandra British Restaurant, acting as the Council's Authorised Officer for the purpose of the Fire Watchers Order 1940, and inspection of Air Raid Shelters.
